

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EB-08 AID-05
TRSE-00 COME-00 AGRE-00 STR-07 HEW-06 OES-09 HA-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
NEA-10 /142 W
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O R 021425Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9050
USMISSION UN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE

UNCLAS MASERU 1669

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, EAID, ECOSOC, LT
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - ITEM 5: DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

REF: GENEVA 11761,

1. REFTEL REQUESTS DEPT'S GUIDANCE ON PROPOSED RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING CONCERN ON IMPOSITION OF QUOTE NEW RESTRICTIONS UNQUOTE
ON TRAVEL OF LESOTHO CITIZENS INTO REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
(I.E. SO-CALLED INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI); QUOTE FULL SUPPORT UNQUOTE
FOR LESOTHO; AND FULL CONCURRENCE IN ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF SEC GEN TO DEAL WITH SITUATION.

2. DUE TO TIME DIFFERENCE, GENEVA/WASHINGTON, EMBASSY IS
PROVIDING INTERIM BACKGROUND/GUIDANCE PENDING DEPT'S REPLY TO
REFTEL.

3. SO-CALLED QUOTE NEW RESTRICTIONS UNQUOTE DATE FROM EARLY 1978
AND INVOLVE PRECEDENT-SETTING REQUIREMENT FOR LESOTHO CITIZENS
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IMPOSED BY SO-CALLED INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI. WE HAVE RECOGNIZED
THAT BORDER CROSSING FORMALITIES IMPOSED BY TRANSKEI AUTHORITIES
POSE SERIOUS POLITICAL/ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FOR LESOTHO WHICH (LIKE
ALL OTHER COUNTRIES EXCEPT SA) DOES NOT RECOGNIZE TRANSKEI AND
CONSIDERS IT AN INTEGRAL PART OF SA TERRITORY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO UNSC RES 402, (ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY WITH

POSITIVE U.S. SUPPORT) THE SYG SENT A MISSION HEADED BY MR. A. A. FARAH, ASST. SYG FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS, TO LESOTHO TO INVESTIGATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO LESOTHO'S NEEDS IN THE FACE OF ITS BORDER PROBLEMS WITH SOUTH AFRICA (TRANSKEI). THE UNITED STATES HAS RESPONDED TO THE FARAH REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AMERGENCY PROGRAM BY AGREEING TO FINANCE THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD THAT WILL CONNECT THE EASTERN LOWLAND PORTION OF LESOTHO WITH THE SOUTHEASTERN MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ADJACENT TO TRANSKEI. A PROJECT AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26 MILLION WAS SIGNED ON JUNE 29, 1978.

IN VIEW OF THIS MAJOR CONTRIBUTION AND OTHER ASSISTANCE UNDERWAY AND CONTEMPLATED, BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE NO HESITATION IN ENDORSING "FULL SUPPORT" LANGUAGE OF DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO SET FORTH REFTEL.

5. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 3 STATES THAT ECOSOC "CONCURS FULLY WITH THE ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION (IN LESOTHO) AS DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT OF THE SYG AND ITS ADDENDUM...". WHILE USG CERTAINLY WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PREPARED TO UNDERWRITE ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED IN REPORT OR ADDENDUM, BELIEVE IT IS REASONABLE FOR US TO JOIN CONSENSUS ENDORSING DRAFT RESOLUTION THAT INTER ALIA CONCURS FULLY IN THE ASSESSMENT AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS AS ITEMS FROM WHICH INTERNATIONAL DONORS MAY CHOOSE AREAS OF ASSISTANCE. DO NOT BELIEVE, IN ANY CASE, THAT US DEL SHOULD TAKE POSITION QUESTIONING LANGUAGE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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DRAFT RESOLUTION ON FARAH REPORT AND ADDENDUM WHICH TO DATE HAVE ENJOYED UNBROKEN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. STOKES

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